

## The Colored American

Published by The Colored American Publishing Company.

A National Negro Newspaper  
Published every Saturday, at 459 C st.  
N. W., Washington, D. C.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year, ..... \$2.00  
Six Months..... 1.10  
Three Months ..... .60  
Invariably in advance.

Subscription may be sent by post office money order, express or registered letter.

All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication should reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere.—Send for instructions.

### ADVERTISING RATES.

Reading notices 50 cents per line. Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch, per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts.

Entered at the Post Office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN.

EDWARD E. COOPER, Manager,

459 C St., Northwest,

Washington, D. C.

Sold by all News Dealers.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1903.

### THANKSGIVING DAY.

There have been few times in the history of our country when Thanksgiving Day meant more to the people than the day set apart this year. More than two hundred and fifty years ago the Pilgrims on the bank of New England shores often designated special days with special features as periods of thanksgiving for some peculiar blessing, such as good crops, freedom from annoyance by the Aborigines, the arrival of a ship from the mother country, and other things favorable to the maintenance and happiness of the colonists.

Twice did George Washington appoint a day for national thanksgiving after the Revolutionary War, and in 1815 President Madison named a day on which the people should give special thanks to God for the outcome of the War of 1812. And so Thanksgiving Day is not peculiar to our times but its observance began more than a century before the establishment of our Republic.

There never was a time, however, when the day had a deeper significance than that which will hallow it this year of our Lord 1903. We have a great, prosperous and united country which has taken its undisputed place among the powerful nations of the earth. Our business enterprises are flourishing, our financial system is sound and secure and our laborer is the best-paid laborer on earth.

We have just entered upon an era of progress and development, the wonderful accomplishments of which no man can foretell. We are on the threshold of a future marvellous in its possibilities. God grant that we may meet our blessing in a spirit of humility and not allow pride of wealth, honor, or glory to make us forgetful of those less fortunate than ourselves.

We believe that in all these things which we have enumerated the Negro American is going to share in no small way. This great tide of prosperity and happiness will sweep him along in its wake and he will join with other men in offering up thanks to the Almighty for our common country and the blessing which He has showered upon it.

An American who has one iota of Negro blood in his body is the parish of the social life and body politic in American life to-day. Any foreigner of high or low estate, of light or swarthy complexion, can pass muster before the American Negro.

### TRUTH IS MIGHTY.

The *Guardian* publishes in a recent issue a statement from Raleigh, N. C., which is wholly and entirely without justification as to fairness, and certainly has no basis in fact. A reputable newspaper should at least seek to have some semblance of truth for its statements. In this case it happens that a jaundiced correspondent is at fault, however, rather than the managers themselves. We have recently seen, from Raleigh, N. C., a letter written by one of the most prominent attorneys living there and a man who is certainly one of the most important Negroes of the country, in which he says that everybody at Raleigh, white and black, men and women, were thoroughly carried away by the address delivered by Dr. Booker Washington during the Negro fair there. A prominent lawyer has written that the address was pitched on so high a plane that the Legislature itself should appropriate \$5,000 to the end that it might be delivered all over the State that both races might hear it; that it was the most potent thing ever delivered in the State in the direction of bringing the two races together on a platform upon which they could both stand, with even and exact justice. This would seem to set at rest the malicious and mendacious misrepresentations which appeared in the *Guardian*, but of course it would be very hard to keep up with all the mischievous statements which have appeared and which are destined to appear in this publication. Also Dr. Charles F. Meserve, of Shaw University, located at Raleigh, N. C., has written "it is the feeling that the visit here has been productive of great good, and I want to say right now that I know it would be a benefit to the State if this address could be delivered in every one of North Carolina's 97 counties." President S. G. Atkins, of the Slater Normal and Industrial School, also writes that no greater service has been rendered the cause of Negro education in North Carolina than Dr. Washington's visit and magnificent address of October 30. "I am receiving," he says, "from our leading teach-

ers in all parts of the State, letters bearing testimony as to the great influence of the speech and to the signal inspiration which is proceeding from it. All of the best people of the State of both races are agree as to the salutary influence of the visit, and our debt of gratitude to Dr. Washington is growing larger every day, as I am sure it will continue to do for years to come."

The race continues to write books and to excel in every avenue of the sciences, sports and industries. A brighter future awaits it.

Men who succeed in life are those who attend to their own affairs and have no time to meddle with other people's affairs.

### THE SOCIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE.

The conference on the race problem in the United States, under the auspices of the National Sociological Society, recently held in this city, marks the beginning of a new era in the treatment of the race question. It is to be inferred from the procedure of this conference, and rightly so, that the race problem is to be treated on a scientific basis, and the same methods are to be applied to it that are applied to the solution of other great questions.

The objects for which the conference was convened were plainly shown in the opening remarks of Prof. Jesse Lawson, president of the National Sociological Society, namely: "To deliberate on the most serious phases of the race problem and to formulate plans for the relief of a strained situation made possible by the presence of said problem; to discover some common ground upon which all of the friends of the cause may stand, and to adjust the different and divergent views respecting the solution of the problem, into a definite and harmonious proposition."

All of the elements that enter as factors into the solution of the problem should be carefully considered, and the deductions made upon a logical basis, always mindful of the fact that patriotism should be the controlling force in all deliberations on public questions in the United States."

The scope of the conference is to be inferred by the calibre of the brains and the general standing of the men who composed it. When it is remembered that the District Commissioners; Rt. Rev. Henry Y. Satterlee, Bishop of Washington; Bishops Arnett, Holsey and Grant; Rev. Dean Richmond Babbitt, Rev. Algernon S. Crapsey, Hon. George H. White, Hon. Judson W. Lyons, Register of the Treasury; Prof. Kelly Miller, Prof. Jesse Lawson, Rev. O. M. Waller, Prof. E. A. Johnson, Prof. T. S. Inboden, Rev. Walter H. Brooks, Dr. A. D. Mayo, Mr. Thomas Nelson Page, Rev. I. L. Thomas, Prof. J. Hugo Johnston, Rev. S. L. Corrothers, Gen. William Birney, Hon. George C. Gorham, Mr. Ernest Hamlin Abbott, co-editor of the *Outlook*; Dr. John Gordon, president of Howard University; Prof. J. McHenry Jones, Prof. W. W. Fairfield, Hon. P. B. S. Pinchback, Prof. A. F. Craven, of Columbia University; Rev. George

W. Lee, Justice Robert H. Terrell, Rev. Oscar J. W. Scott, Rev. Sterling N. Brown, Hon. J. C. Dancy, Dr. James T. Walker, Rev. J. Albert Johnson, and Prof. Booker T. Washington, who is a whole factor in himself, Dr. Robert Reyburn, Dr. John R. Francis, Dr. F. J. Shadd, Mr. W. P. Burrell, Secretary of the True Reformers; Dr. O. M. Atwood, and many others participated in the conference, it is not difficult to form an idea of what might be expected of such a gathering.

At the evening meetings held at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church and at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, standing room was at a premium.

In making the address of welcome, Hon. Henry B. McFarland, president of the Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia, sounded the keynote when he said: "It is an encouraging sign, like a ray of light through clouds, that white men and colored men are meeting together to consider, in the scientific method, and I trust, in a philanthropic spirit, what from its magnitude and difficulties we have come to call *The race Problem*."

Rev. I. L. Thomas, of Baltimore, rung clear on the keynote when, in his response to Commissioner Macfarland, he said: "If we had a thousand men like President Roosevelt and Mr. Macfarland, in twenty years there would be no race problem in the United States."

The three principal addresses delivered by Dr. A. D. Mayo, of Boston, Rev. Dean Richmond Babbitt, of Brooklyn, and Rev. Algernon S. Crapsey, of Rochester, were masterpieces in thought and composition, and will be handed down to posterity among the great orations on American questions.

The crowning glory of the conference was the appointment of a commission of three white men and three colored men to co-operate with a commission to be authorized by the Federal Government to whom all phases of the race question is to be referred for consideration and report, thus taking the race issue out of politics and placing it beyond partisan cavil.

The platform of principles, embodied in the resolutions, is a carefully drawn instrument which shows the conclusions of the conference. It is a statesmanlike paper, for the reason that it discovers common ground upon which men of both races, North and South, may stand, and said ground is vital to the solution of the problem.

A reader of THE COLORED AMERICAN who has frequently made objections to the printing of hair-straightening, face-bleach and that class of advertising that has appeared in this paper for the past few years, has volunteered to back up his objections by securing an advertisement of a different nature to take the place of the objectionable ones now being run in the paper. Many friends and readers of this paper could help it, by following his example. It is an easy matter to object to this, that and the other thing which appear in the paper from time to time, but the objectors are usually of that class who are in arrears with their subscriptions, or who will not patronize the paper at all. These columns are open to suggestions.